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## Original Communications.

### **Dr. Parker's Reply to the Address of the Members of the Medical Pro- fession of Halifax and Dart- mouth, on completion of Fifty years active pro- fessional work.**

*Gentlemen :—*

You have done me the honor to present me with an address, on the occasion of the expiration of the 50th year of my Professional life. I have listened with interested attention to your warm, friendly and courteous utterances, and have to express my heartfelt gratitude to you for these expressions of your feelings, to one, who has for a longer or shorter portion, of this half century, been a co-labourer with many of you.

If, during that lengthy period, I have been instrumental, even to a very limited extent, in advancing the interests of the Medical Profession, or the community in which I have spent the greater part of my life, I am thankful that the opportunities were given me to co-operate with you and others, not of our profession, in striving to give relief and comfort to those who required it; and to impart an education to those who have unhappily been deprived of the ordinary means of receiving instruction.

At the outset you must permit me to say, and to say emphatically, that your estimate of my career and work, is far in excess of that which I should be credited with. Kindness of heart and personal friendship have prompted you to put the case more strongly than I, (who am not infrequently in the habit of looking in upon the inner man, and surveying my past work) can subscribe to.

The nature of the occasion would seem to suggest that I should make some reference to my earlier professional life, and the environments of the men who practiced in this city and province fifty or sixty years ago; and, at the same time touch briefly on some of the changes that have occurred in the profession, and professional work, in more recent times.

As was the custom, in the days of my boyhood, I was indentured, as a Student of Medicine, to Dr. William Bruce Almon, father of Senator Almon, than whom, both as a physician and a citizen, no man in the province stood higher. He was health officer of the port and in the performance of his duty, when visiting an emigrant ship, contracted a malignant form of fever, and in 1840 died at the comparatively early age of 52 years. He fell, as years after John Slayter fell, on board the cholera ship England, in the service of his country.